

impact for the Turkish people. The Turkish government's inability to implement economic reforms mandated by the International Monetary Fund continues to plague their banking and economic systems.

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental appropriations request will undoubtedly pass. No one in this Congress will obstruct the important funds that need to get to our brave men and women putting their lives on the line in hostile territory.

However, in order for Turkey to receive their huge economic aid package, I believe the Turkish government must fulfill the following commitment: that Turkey agrees to allow unfettered U.S. and international humanitarian aid transited through and/or being staged in Turkish territory in support of the northern Kurds; second, that Turkey explicitly agrees not to cross into northern Iraq, as demanded by President Bush; third, that Turkey agrees they can provide only logistical support to the humanitarian effort in the north; fourth, that Turkey agrees to economic and banking reforms, as specified by international lending institutions; and, fifth, that Turkey provide full minority rights to its citizens, as provided for in international and European conventions.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be willing to provide huge sums of money to countries that twist our arms in times of need. I hope we can address these needs while debating the President's supplemental appropriations request next week.

THE PLIGHT OF THE NATION AND THE WORLD RELATING TO CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to bring to the attention of this Nation and my colleagues the combined plight of the Nation and the combined plight of the world, particularly as it relates to children.

It is certainly important, Mr. Speaker, to note that we have been engaged in a budget process. That budget process will be impacting the children of the Nation, so I wanted to speak today about how we need to turn this Nation around.

I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, that just a few years ago we had great focus and concern on the high schools of our Nation as gun violence broke out across the Nation in urban areas, rural areas. It was baffling to most of us. The most striking was Columbine. Enormous carnage occurred at the hands of young people.

During that time, we had many meetings in this House and great concern with funding for juvenile programs; great interest in gun reform, if

you will; a lot of intensity and focus on how we could best stop the gun violence. It always seems that we attempt to close the barn door when the horse and the cow have escaped.

Now, some few years later, Members do not hear us talking about what do we do about violence in our high schools, gun violence in our high schools. We do not talk further about the question, if you will, of providing resources for school counselors, guidance counselors.

I have legislation, Mr. Speaker, that would increase the number of community mental health clinics, increase the number of guidance counselors who can separate themselves away from paperwork. Yet this body has not seen fit to focus on legislation that, in essence, Mr. Speaker, would promote our children first.

After 9/11, there was a great notation that in New York many children were left abandoned or orphaned because they were being raised by single parents in many instances, or their parents were in foreign countries, the other parent. Interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough, we found out that that was the case.

This body over a period of weeks passed legislation that I was very gratified that I had authored that the children of 9/11 in governmental benefits would be promoted first, would be first over others to receive benefits, responding to a crisis. Why do we not respond to the needs of our children now, Mr. Speaker, before the crisis?

Right now in our schools we are finding out that young people are failing in their standardized tests; that there is an unequal, if you will, educational system, separate and unequal, in many of our rural and urban areas. The physical plants are crumbling.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to talk with some of my school districts.

□ 1600

In speaking to them, and asking the hard questions about homeland security, they are proceeding to put in place that their skills will be safe houses, safe places, a safe plan so that parents would know if there was a crisis, that they did not need to run quickly to the school to take their child away. They might be in danger, but is it not interesting that this body has not seen fit to pass a program to rebuild our schools.

A plan that we have offered, the Democrats have offered over and over, the school construction plan, to rebuild America's crumbling schools. We could have done this two sessions ago, but our good friends on the other side of the aisle thought that this was an unnecessary expenditure and look where we are today. Looking at school buildings as potential safe houses, promoting safe plans that would keep children inside schools. Do we not need the same kind of important and well-structured physical structure that, of

course, our good friends would have in more prosperous areas and school districts?

Here we go again, not being preventive, not striking while the iron is hot but waiting for disaster to befall us.

I think it is extremely important that we recognize that our children should be first. So I just want to share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, both the plight of our children domestically, because this is a week that we have responded to the needs of children, and to say what more we can do to provide a safe Nation for our children.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, it sounds like we are going astray, but we can eliminate the President's \$726 billion tax cut, and we can do that and focus our investment in the resources that would help not only the children but their parents and their community.

A few of us just spoke a few minutes ago about the waging and raging war. We have said it over and over again. We voted today to encourage a period of fasting and praying, whatever faith a person may have, if they desire to engage in such, a voluntary fasting and praying. We did that today, and one of the Members who spoke at this press conference on the question of peace so eloquently stated, and I recite his words, that we pray for President Bush; that he may be wise in his decisions; and that he may reflect upon options for peace; and that we will have the opportunity to bring these brave young men and women home; that we have the opportunity to press forward on a cease fire; that, in fact, we find our way not to enter Baghdad, to increase the numbers of lost lives of both our troops and others.

The \$726 billion tax cut does not seem to recognize that there must be mutual sacrifice. Today, as we speak, young men and women are sacrificing for us, and they are willing to sacrifice their lives for us. How in the heck, Mr. Speaker, can a \$726 billion tax cut, failing to take into consideration the enormous growing unemployment, the \$280-plus billion deficit right as we speak and the \$1 trillion deficit expected to grow over a decade, how in the world can we afford to pay for a growing, costly war which may cost upwards of \$1 trillion which would include potential occupation and governance of Iraq and maybe even alone, not with our allies? How can we afford a \$726 billion tax cut?

Might I draw from the words of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) in the idea of mutual sacrifice. I would not expect that there would be one "no" vote in corporate America and the richest of us in America, one "no" vote to say I will bypass the \$726 billion tax cut for the troops, for rebuilding Iraq and for our children.

We have not been shown by the Nation's media, American media, the devastation that is being promoted or being wrecked in Iraq. I am talking about the civilians. We already know the sanction has caused a huge number

of deaths of Iraqi children. We already know that has been occurring, preceding us entering the country because of their inability to get medical care and food; but we do not know what kind of damage we are facing.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very fortunate as a Member of Congress. My constituents honor me. This body honors me. I am honored to be here, and out of that respect for my constituents, I have chosen to accept invitations to visit our troops, invitations to be in Bosnia, Mr. Speaker, before the peace treaty was signed, the very war that I heard many of my colleagues get up and oppose, and that happened to have been a NATO alliance effort and short lived as it was.

By doing that, Mr. Speaker, I went to cities like Sarajevo and saw the realistic and real devastation of war, buildings, of which we would pride ourselves as being historic, leveled, people walking the streets in tattered clothes. War is ugly.

Kosovo, I saw the devastation of the million refugees marching and fleeing the killing that might have occurred if they had not left their homeland, and I see now still the work we have to do to restore those people. They were living in huge refugee camps; and in visiting those camps, I saw the ugliness of it, the uncleanness of it, and the pain. The Kosovo war again was NATO allies, but I went because it is best to see firsthand both the presence of war and the vestiges of war.

So it is key that we recognize that we may have to sacrifice to rebuild a nation that we are now at war with. I know Americans are caring people. I know that because we move so swiftly to provide humanitarian aid to our own and to others, and so I know Americans would want to be on the front lines of helping those children and those families in Iraq.

I know that we would want to teach them other than terrorism and other than issues that would divide our world. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot do it with a \$726 billion tax cut and an increasing amount of dollars for the war. We cannot do it with the budget that has been presented by the President or the budget that has been passed by this House by one vote. We cannot do it to our veterans who clearly do not deserve a 28 percent cut in their budget and as well the door being closed at veterans hospitals on a daily basis. These are veterans that are parents of young children.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that we have a lot of work to do if we care about our children. It is a disappointment that we would offer this budget and this approach to America and the world. I am disappointed that the President's budget raises spending on international affairs by substantially more than inflation. The cut to domestic appropriations must be \$129 billion; and might I balance my remarks, Mr. Speaker, because I support our work internationally. I believe it is important to gain friends.

I know that a good friend of mine, former Congressman Cleo Fields, who I am delighted to see has joined us on the floor, was a champion for ensuring that we not only balance friendship overseas, but he was a champion on school issues and the issues of providing for our children, representing his constituents out of Louisiana. Clearly, I can say to my colleagues that I would hope that our work would be befitting of his legacy and that we would not see domestic spending going down.

It is certainly a crisis when we see that over 10 years, \$244 billion in domestic discretionary spending is going out the window. We know what that means, Mr. Speaker. It means the CHIP program, the Children's Health Insurance Program, that is what is going out. It means that Medicaid for children who need mental health services is going out.

Mr. Speaker, I have some information coming that I think is extremely important, but it means that those kinds of resources are coming quickly, hard hitting, and it is coming on top of States who, as we speak, Texas with a \$12 billion deficit, California with a \$38 billion deficit, other States with enormous deficits. It seems it is coming right when our States are hurting, Governors are hurting. Cities are hurting. It is extremely important.

So I would ask that my colleagues listen as we move toward designing the emergency supplemental, that is, the appropriations that would include funding for the war. I would ask my colleagues to consider the importance of remembering our children, and I would ask them to remember what we are doing when we are cutting funds, and I am going to be citing a few for my colleagues.

We mentioned \$244 billion that we will see cut in domestic discretionary spending below the current service level over 10 years. In addition, the Republican budget requires \$265 billion in cuts to public benefits, as I said, veterans benefits, Medicaid, Medicare. The cuts are likely to hit veterans programs, loans for college students, school lunch programs, Medicaid, pensions for Federal employees and railroad employees and agricultural programs.

Recently, I visited with Forest Brook High School, the Jaguars, almost 500 students in an auditorium. They were so bright. They were a recognized school. They are moving to be an exemplary school. That means they are crossing the T's and dotting the I's as it relates to their academic prowess; but they asked the hard questions about this war. But one young lady, a student, got up and said, Will I be able to have an education? I do not know, Mr. Speaker, with this kind of budget because Pell grants are being cut. Colleges are being cut.

I understand in some legislatures and States that college presidents were asked, send their testimony in writing

because they were too embarrassed to have college presidents come and tell them how many services will be cut and how much they would be raising their tuition. What an embarrassment.

Already, we know that school lunch programs are in jeopardy, and, yes, loans for our college students. What is our concern for the children?

Mr. Speaker, I would offer to say to my colleagues we can do better, and even though we have come to an end in this week's legislative effort, I believe that we have to be responsible in investing in our children and investing in America's domestic tranquility and its economy.

We must be concerned about creating jobs. That helps improve the quality of life of our children because it improves the quality of life of their parent or guardian or that grandmother. We tend to forget things, and that is one of my underlying themes. We are always ready to put out the fire. I would like to make sure we do not have a fire, and we all ran to put out the Enron fire. Lo and behold the collapse of corporate integrity, one of the largest bankruptcies that we have ever seen and the laying off of thousands of my constituents who were impacted, and they impacted the children that they were responsible for.

The Democratic stimulus plan looks to creating jobs. Right now we have got a huge number of jobs being cut. I think upwards of 200,000 and less jobs are being created. The Democratic plan will create about twice as many jobs as the President's budget, and the Republican budget, according to mainstream economic forecasting models, by costing less than one-sixth as much over the long term.

□ 1615

Democrats provide an immediate \$136 billion in tax cuts as opposed to \$726 billion. That is what you call mutual sacrifice. It is a stimulus which we will immediately see. What does that do? It puts the children's parents and guardians back to work. Remember, I have said the children should be our priority. I believe that we have harmed the domestic tranquility.

We have failed our senior citizens by not yet moving on a guaranteed robust prescription drug plan, one that guarantees prescription drugs to our senior citizens. Mr. Speaker, some of them are in fact the grandparents who are taking care of the children in many of our communities through the tragedy of drug addiction or incarceration or for some failure to that child's parent. The grandparent steps in, they have the responsibility of caring for that child, the responsibility of being on Medicare with no other funds and they cannot pay for their prescription drugs. Again, the children are harmed.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that we need to begin to look constructively at how we can help the children. I want to go for a moment to education and health care and specifically to the

Leave No Child Behind Act. The Republicans cut 2004 appropriations for Department of Education by \$1.4 billion, 2.7 percent below the 2003 enacted level. However, because Republicans matched the President's funding for several Leave No Child Behind Act programs, their across-the-board cut reduces all the education programs by 10.2 percent below the President's levels and by 8.3 percent below the 2003 enacted programs.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Speaker. Tremendous cuts to safe and drug-free schools, after-school programs, education for homeless children, vocational education and aid to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other programs.

How does that hit home? It hits home, Mr. Speaker, in the course and manner of real people. Our school districts are not celebrating that you are cutting their safe and drug-free schools because, Mr. Speaker, some of them have been able to access those dollars to help them in their homeland security needs. And so to cut the safe and drug-free schools just puts the responsibility or the burden on the local districts and their dwindling tax base and gives the United States Government another free ride. We are saying to them, do you have a safe plan, are you protecting the children where most children spend a great part of their life, in school; and we are telling them we are going to cut safe and drug-free schools, the after-school programs.

Some years ago, Mr. Speaker, I served as a member of the Houston City Council and in serving as a member of the Houston City Council, I worked very hard to put in place for the city of Houston after-school programs in the parks. Let me compliment Mayor Lee P. Brown and the city of Houston and city council members for continuing that program and having an expanded program that embraces the churches. I was able to add \$1 million to my district a year or two ago to have that after-school program continue. Who knows what will happen now? Here we go dumping our burdens on our local communities. After-school programs are vital because we realize statistically that children get in most of the trouble that they get into from 3 to 7 when parents are working and the latchkey children are bound.

But we apparently in this body are not concerned because the President's budget, and I would imagine the budget we voted on by one vote just a few days ago did the same thing. Homeless children should be calculated as part of homeless families which increase all the time. Transitional home units are not being built but families who are transient, who are moving from home to home, are part of our homeless families and they have children. I know my school district has a large number of them; and we are cutting housing for homeless children, our vocational education which allows individuals to get skills and go from the high school to

the work room with a skill that can provide for them.

Then I am concerned for the historically black and Hispanic-serving institutions. Tragically, of course, we will be hearing the Supreme Court argument on April 1 about affirmative action, the challenge of affirmative action before the United States Supreme Court, and I raise that as a tool, a vehicle for many children in our Nation, young Hispanics, African Americans and other minorities, women included, who have utilized the tool of affirmative action not to exclude anyone but simply to give them a hand up. What a tragedy that this administration in a time when young men and women are in harm's way in the military to be able to note that this government would stand in opposition to affirmative action. We certainly hope that the United States Supreme Court will listen carefully to the arguments, and I believe that they will carefully assess that the University of Michigan affirmative action programs are in fact constitutional. Many of us will be gathering in Houston, Texas, for a summit on the question of affirmative action and the abysmal record of civil rights in this administration because we believe that we do in fact leave children behind if we do not promote the civil rights of a Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. We do not in fact provide opportunities to continue for higher education.

I think as an aside, it is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that civil rights is a very core part of America's history. There are moments that I was not proud of America, as many of you know, it would be certainly our slave history; but there are certainly moments that we can all be proud of America because she sought corrective measures. Though there was a violent period through the civil rights era of the 1960s and certainly voices being raised of protest, there were moments when America stood tall. The Voter Rights Act of 1965, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the executive order on affirmative action that Richard Nixon signed, those were positive moments. Why would we stoop to the level that we are stooping to, to have the United States Government challenge affirmative action as a viable tool?

The reason why I connect this to being preventative and dealing with our children, Mr. Speaker, is because in Texas when the Hopwood decision was rendered, we lost large numbers of our Hispanic and African American young people because they were denied admission to our institutions of higher learning. We were willing to lose them and deny them because of, I think, misdirected decisions and others who would represent that they are excluded because of affirmative action. Obviously, I find great pause and question as to why the United States Government could not be on the side of arguing for the constitutionality of the Michigan plan as opposed to being

against it, because I know the ripple effect that will occur if the Supreme Court pronounces it unconstitutional. We will see affirmative action plans being dismantled around the Nation. But to the credit of the private sector, let me congratulate corporate America where large numbers of them have submitted, if you will, and there is a great deal of joy that they have submitted amicus briefs in support of this plan.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can all see the importance of being proactive and to be preventative. Certainly we have situations that that is not occurring. As I have indicated, it is extremely important that our children be in the highest priority. I went off a little bit to the side on affirmative action and civil rights because I noted that the cuts would impact historically black colleges and Hispanic-serving institutions. America is only at its best when all of us have access to equal education.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to rural America, and I want to speak to urban America. We want to make sure that our educational systems are equal. I want to cite a Governor that I have great respect for, Governor Mark White, who came in and did something in Texas that was innovative and shocking: no pass, no play. The reason why he implemented that and that had to do with playing sports, and we are in Texas a football State. Every Friday night you will find us right where we need to belong with our families watching the football, the basketball, the baseball. To be able to be a Governor and say no pass, no play was outrageous. But he did that because he did not care to say that if you were in a prominent school district, you had the right to a good education. He wanted you to have a good education no matter where you were.

And so the very fact that No Child Left Behind is being cut is a tragedy. The very fact that there are children being tested today and are failing standardized tests is a tragedy because part of the laws that we put in place, Mr. Speaker, for No Child Left Behind was to give those schools who had less moneys and their children were failing, to give them moneys to improve their teaching quality. We wanted to remedy the problem of failing students. We did not want to condemn the school, close the school, condemn the children, condemn the parents. We wanted to help them. But here we go in 2003, failing to provide the kind of support that we need.

Job training has been cut by this budget, and I believe it again undermines trying to get people reemployed. I mentioned to you about Enron. There are many of those individuals still unemployed. Some of them are overqualified. Some of them need to be retrained. They represent a different set of circumstances than those who need more training. But I would argue that we should invest in human capital. Again, domestic tranquility. I want to

give you the figure that the President's funding for Pell grants would reduce the maximum Pell grants by \$50; but over a period of time, that has an impact. This is back to the level of the maximum award in 2002. As I said to you, Mr. Speaker, there are presidents who are saying in State schools that we are raising your tuition. That sort of puts a slice, if you will, to a number of individuals seeking higher education and goes to the question of that student at Forest Brook High School earlier this week who asked, will I be able to get an education? Mr. Speaker, I do not know.

We will also be saying to those children who need Head Start, that 28,000 of you because of this budget will not be able to attend Head Start. I am very proud of my children, as we all are. My son is an 11th grader. My daughter is a new teacher. She is in a program that should be promoted and complimented, Teach for America. She is teaching in one of our schools in Houston. They are wonderful children, first graders. But many of them, Mr. Speaker, were not able to participate in early childhood education where they were exposed to learning and reading, and it is evident in the difficulty of learning to read. This is what will happen if we cut enough funds that it would result in 28,000 low-income children not being able to utilize Head Start. Do we really know what that means, Mr. Speaker? I am not sure we do.

I want to just cite H.G. Wells who said, "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe."

Clearly if we allow generations to be uneducated, if we create an equal divide, if we go back to pre-Thurgood Marshall's argument to the Supreme Court in 1954 where we were arguing against allegedly separate but equal, it was separate and unequal, or the Kerner Report in 1967 which said we live in a Nation black and white and unequal. We are back there again in the unequalness of housing, education and health care.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, if we are to do that, then we are raising throngs of individual young people who maybe speak a different language, who are now disadvantaged because they are not able to get early childhood education, they are not able to get Head Start. Why would we, Mr. Speaker, want to undermine, if you will, our responsibilities to those young people? And, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we fight against not promoting our children first, and clearly the lack of funding for Head Start is one of them.

Might I cite, Mr. Speaker, a rising issue before I address the question of our children living across the world, and that is this question dealing again with our little ones and the amount of money that we are going to see leaving them and going somewhere else. As I do that, let me just cite one other fact

that I think is extremely important, and that is that 50 percent of our children heading towards college are not prepared for college courses. That is a little tidbit that I wanted to add, because it goes to the question of affirmative action. It goes to the question of Leave No Child Behind, that once we cut off K through 12, then of course we are simply cutting off opportunity.

I want to applaud two amendments, or at least one amendment, one by legislative initiative by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), a constitutional amendment to provide equality for children, a bill of rights for children as it relates to education.

But as I close on that topic, I want to speak to another tragedy amongst our midst, if you will, and that is the question of child abuse. Again, Mr. Speaker, I have said that this discussion this afternoon is about promoting our children, the interests of our children. The work of the Congressional Children's Caucus that I chair has been always to promote children as a national agenda item, which is why legislation such as the 9/11 Save Our Children, the mental health legislation that was promoted, the issues that we discussed on mentoring, the work being done with Afghan children, it is all about recognizing the importance of protecting our children.

So I want to raise the question of where are our missing children and why can they not be found and the fact that we have a crisis in the Nation on efforts to find our children. And I cite Rilya Wilson, the tragedy in Florida. 5-year-old Rilya Wilson was staying with her grandmother in January of 2001 when someone showed up saying they were with the Department of Children and Families and took her away.

A man claiming to need help finding his dog grabbed 5-year-old Samantha Runnion while she played a board game with her friend on the front lawn of her home in Orange County, California. A body was found later in a gruesome pose in a forested area less than an hour's drive away. Unfortunately, a horrible discovery found that she had been molested and asphyxiated. The trail of evidence led police to a man who was acquitted of molesting two girls 2 years ago.

In my own district, we are still looking for Laura Ayala, crying, with her family painfully wondering what happened.

Danielle van Dam's body was recovered.

Jahi Turner, a 2-year-old African American boy, disappeared after we found Danielle van Dam on April 25.

Clearly, we believe that our children are precious, but do we realize that murder is the only major cause of childhood death that has increased over the past 3 decades? About 200 to 300 children are taken in kidnappings by strangers each year, with about 100 of those kids found murdered. Typically black, Hispanic, and poor children are disproportionately represented among that number.

We are gratified and excited that Elizabeth Smart came home to her loving family.

Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis of child abuse and child molestation, and we need to get in front of the problem. So we need a budget that reinforces our support of child abuse prevention. We need to audit the Children's Protective Services in many of our States, and I am going to take a point of personal privilege and suggest that the Harris County Children's Protective Service has been working diligently to find abandoned children or to prevent abandoned children but, more importantly, to be a stickler on ensuring that we are attentive to children we have placed in foster care.

We have had some ups and downs and tragedies. We even just recently had a tragedy with a suicide in one of our mental health facilities dealing with children, and I know that we will be focusing on that investigation in my own community.

It happens to say that we need more mental health facilities for our children. That is a crisis as well. But there is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that we are abandoning our children to the extent that they need resources, they need education, they need affirmative action, they need civil rights. They need the Children's Health Insurance Program. They need a peaceful world. They need a world without war. They need to bring some of the young parents home, similar to the young Marine who has to make a choice with honorable service to her Nation and a 4-month-old baby because her husband is already deployed on the front lines. They need someone caring about their plight.

So I ask my colleagues as we begin this journey toward the passage of the emergency supplemental, as we pass the budget with one vote, as we talk about a \$726 billion tax cut, where are our hearts for our children? Do we really realize that children themselves need mental health services and they grapple with depression and we do not have enough beds in America for our children, mental health beds?

My dear, dear friend, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, a man that we grew to love, championed for mental health services for all Americans, championed for parity in health care for mental health services, a champion for going to any part of the world to look and to investigate the plight of children, a man who joined me in Houston, Texas where, we listened to 90 witnesses about the plight of children without mental health services. Mr. Speaker, it was clearly a tragic loss, but in his name as we move toward this process, might I simply ask my colleagues to look at some of the issues that I have discussed and as well look at some of the needs of children around the world.

So I will close with simply, Mr. Speaker, sharing some of the sights and the plights of our children. This

may not be an American child, but I have described the pain that we are experiencing in this country and that our budget clearly does not speak to that pain. So I would ask that as we look to our budgeting process that we remember USAID and the funds needed to help the children of the world, and I cite specifically the faces of Afghan children and who knows what other children will be facing a devastating condition.

When I visited Afghanistan, these are the children that I saw, a thousand of them in an orphanage, covered with sores, no school books, no pencils, no paper, very limited resources. Would this not be a better posture for America to take, one of peace, reconciliation, and humanitarian aid as we spend \$1 billion a month in Afghanistan?

These are the children and the faces that need to be helped, mother and child. And there are children that are going to be left in terrible conditions as well, children that we would want to help, our own children, America's children, that do not have Head Start. They do not have health coverage. They do not have housing because we are cutting homeless programs for children. They do not have school counselors who can do something other than paperwork.

The children of America. They are under siege because child abuse is still rampant, sexual predators are about and abound. So as we have done some good things, Mr. Speaker, that I acknowledge, passing legislation that speaks to runaway children and children that are abducted, there is much more work to be done.

I would argue that if we are to be a Nation of values, believing in the Declaration of Independence, that we all are created equal, with certain inalienable rights of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we will respect our conscience. We will respect the work that is done in this body. We will not demean and degrade anyone who rises to speak more for peace than for war. Because we have to make choices, and those choices should be for our children, the longing of these faces who long for us to be credible and to be preventative and to stop the gunfire, the violence, to stop the lack of foster parents and care and the lack of jobs for their parents.

See these faces, Mr. Speaker. Can we not be responsive? Will there not be a signal and a clarion call for the emergency supplemental to not bust the budget and will there be the call for mutual sacrifice, tax cuts that stimulate the economy, not bust the economy?

And, if the Members will, Mr. Speaker, with these smiling faces I end on the note an opportunity to bring the young men and women home to a Nation that will parade them and honor them, but not only that, take care of them and their families. Might this be the kind of bipartisan spirit that this

Congress could engage in to show to the world that America has sought her higher angels and the premises upon which she was founded, to create a more perfect union? Is that not the America we all know and love?

God bless this Nation, and God bless our troops.

"Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe." H.G. Wells spoke those words in 1920 and they are just as valid today. As our interaction with technology increases in the workforce and in our day-to-day lives it is ever more vital that our young people be educated to manipulate that technology or they will be left behind.

We as a country will indeed be in danger of falling behind. If our youth are not properly educated from very early in life we are at risk of losing them—at risk of losing our future. It is for that reason that I believe that the investment in human capital should be our highest priority. We are shortchanging our Founding Fathers who sought to make this a nation for all.

The Founders knew something that James Garfield would later say, "Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained."

As protecting our freedoms and our way of life is dear to us so must be the provision for and maintenance of our public schools. I understand that issues of student to teacher ratio, teacher's salaries, funding on the federal, state and local levels are all issues that those of us who care about education must address.

Recently, I have co-sponsored a bill that calls on the Secretary of Education to determine whether each State's public school system is providing its students with the educational resources necessary to meet challenging academic achievement standards and to compete and succeed in a global economy. The bill is H.R. 236, to provide for adequate and equitable educational opportunities for students in State public school systems, and for other purposes. It contains a student bill of rights that requires providing specified fundamental educational opportunity to students at each and every public elementary and secondary school. The bill also requires providing educational services in school districts that receive funds for disadvantaged students that are, taken as a whole, at least comparable to educational services provided in school districts that do not receive such funds.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND—REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

A gap in funding education is harmful to our children's futures as well as to the future of our nation's economy. In fact, poor educational policy is injurious to our society as a whole.

In my district, the Houston Independent School District has more students in special education than in gifted and talented programs: 58.5 percent of Houston Independent School District students are considered at risk and 7.9 percent of Houston Independent School District students study English as a Second Language.

Across the country more than 50 percent of urban college freshmen are not prepared for college courses. That has an obvious detrimental impact on their ability to succeed at the college level. Ill-prepared freshmen also have a deleterious affect on our nation's institutions

of higher education as those institutions strive to provide young minds with an academic environment that allows graduates to become productive members of the workforce. Whole semesters are lost when students have to be instructed at a remedial level even before they can begin basic college courses. To avert adverse outcome support has to be given at the earliest levels of education to our youngest students.

Not long ago Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, touting the Administration's commitment to education. The Bush Administration has proposed a budget that suggests devastating cuts to primary and secondary education in this country. You should be aware of what that budget proposes and of the profound impact the budget cuts would make.

His current budget cuts funding for Elementary and Secondary Education programs by \$90 million! The Administration's budget would shatter Head Start and threaten the quality services that the program provides.

Head Start programs have helped prepare 20 million disadvantaged preschool children for school. Yet because the House Republican budget would slash funding to Head Start, 28,000 preschool children could be dropped from the program. The Administration's budget would freeze child care for the next five years forcing states to drop 200,000 children over five years. That is 200,000 children who will be dropped from the care they need to enter school prepared to learn. That is 200,000 children who need care while their parents are at work.

The House Republican budget proposal would force deep cutbacks in the Child Care and Development Block over the next ten years. Those cuts will sacrifice child care for thousands more children and families.

These budget cuts are proposed, in order to pay for a tax cut for the most affluent of citizens. The most affluent will benefit while the children will suffer. That is not justice. That is not the American way. That is not how we demonstrate respect for our most important values.

If the Republicans' budget proposal is passed it will demonstrate that America believes children and the poor should subsidize tax breaks for the rich.

If the Republican budget is passed it will demonstrate that health care, Head Start, child care, education, and after school programs are not as important as adding to the bottom line of the wealthiest taxpayers.

In truth, the Republican plan would force severe cutbacks in virtually every essential support for America's most vulnerable children and families over the next ten years in order to hand a \$90,000 tax cut to each millionaire this year.

If, in fact, no child is to be left behind then no dollar should be lost to education at a time when states and localities can least afford to lose them. That's why the proposed budget cuts from the Administration and House Republicans are the wrong choice for America.

The Children's Defense Fund has said, "It is time for new choices that invest more in children than in millionaires, more in the poor than in the powerful. It is time to make our country live up to its promise of fair opportunity for every child and to demand that we truly Leave No Child Behind."

Supporting education, Head Start, and child care is the way to truly began to create equal

opportunity for every child. That equal opportunity should continue beyond pre-school, elementary and secondary school. It should continue into the higher education institutions of this country.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

This spring, the Court will decide whether achieving a racially and ethnically diverse student body in institutions of higher learning is a "compelling state interest" such that the consideration of race and ethnicity in public college admissions is constitutionally permissible.

The University of Michigan's admissions policy is at issue. The policy considers race as one of several factors in a constitutionally permissible manner that is narrowly tailored and geared to address the compelling state interest of achieving diversity.

While the University of Michigan does not set aside seats for minority applicants and has no two-track system of considering applications, President Bush falsely described its policy as one dependent on a quota system that rewards applicants solely on the basis of race.

President Bush argues that "some states are using innovative ways to diversify their student bodies. Recent history has proven that diversity can be achieved without using quotas. Systems in California and Florida and Texas have proven that by guaranteeing admissions to the top students from high schools throughout the state, including low income neighborhoods, colleges can attain broad racial diversity."

Bush also says, "In these states, race-neutral admissions policies have resulted in levels of minority attendance for incoming students that are close to, and in some instances slightly surpass, those under the old race-based approach."

In reality, The Harvard University Civil Rights Project has issued two reports that conclude that percent plans are not effective replacements for traditional affirmative action. These percent plans dictate that a certain percentage of every graduating class of every high school in the state is admitted to a state school. Presumably, this removes other barriers to minority enrollment and will provide a diverse pool of students. The percent plans cannot be applied at national universities, private universities, or graduate and professional school programs, and they simply do not yield the levels of diversity that race-conscious admissions policies produce."

In Texas, Florida and California, which the Administration holds out as successful examples of percent plans, there was low minority enrollment in the universities before affirmative action was ended, despite the fact that all three have rising population rates of African-Americans and Hispanics. The Harvard study noted that students in these states face great educational disparities long before the college level, disparities that are reinforced through the percent plans.

Affirmative action is critically needed to achieve diversity in our universities. When students complete their K-12 education they need to know that the doors of higher education will be open to them. The diversity that is sought benefits the entire student body and enhances the educational experience for all students. The plurality of backgrounds and life experiences contribute to the robust learning environment that serves as the hallmark of quality institutions of higher learning.

CHILD ABUSE

Five-year-old Rilya Wilson was staying with her grandmother in January of 2001 when someone showed up saying they were with the Department of Children and Families and took her away.

A man claiming to need help finding his dog grabbed 5-year-old Samantha Runnion while she played a board game with her friend on the front lawn of her home in Orange County, California. A body was later found in a gruesome pose in a forested area less than an hour's drive away. An autopsy revealed she'd been molested and asphyxiated. A trail of evidence led police to a man who was acquitted of molesting two girls two years ago.

In my own district these tragic acts of violence hit home. Laura Ayala, a 13-year-old Latino girl from Houston was reported missing after leaving her apartment to buy a newspaper at a nearby gas station. Only her shoes were found.

On April 25th, two months after Danielle van Dam's body was recovered, Jahi Turner, a 2-year-old African American boy disappeared, while playing in a San Diego Park.

In a study by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, law enforcement officials identified pictures as the single most important tool in the search for a missing child. One out of six children featured in photo campaigns is found as a direct result of the photo.

About 200 to 300 children are taken in kidnappings by strangers each year with about 100 of those kids found murdered. Typically, black, Hispanic and poor children are disproportionately represented among that number.

Murder is the only major cause of childhood death that has increased over the past three decades. Over one-third of all sexual assaults involve a child who was under the age of 12. One in four children is sexually abused before the age of 18. One of every seven victims of sexual assault is under the age of six.

Over a four-to-five year period, 13.4 percent of sex offenders recidivated with another sexual offense.

Only 22 State sex offender registries collect and maintain DNA samples as part of registration. We know that DNA helped police find the suspect in the case of Samantha Runnion, and it is critical if we are going to capture other offenders. Despite the atrocities against our children, only 22 State sex offender registries collect and maintain DNA samples as part of registration.

HEALTH CARE—CENSUS 2000 STATISTICS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

Uninsured rates for different age groups of children are not statistically different: 13.3 percent of children under six are uninsured, 13.5 percent of children six to 11 are uninsured, and 14.5 percent of those 12 to 17 are uninsured.

Hispanic children are far less likely to have health insurance than White or African American children, and African American children were somewhat less likely to have health insurance than White children: 26.8 percent of Hispanic children were without health insurance in 1995, 15.3 percent of African American children, and 13.4 percent of White children.

In 1995, 66.1 percent of all children under age 18 were covered by a privately purchased or employment-based health plan, and 23.2 percent were covered by Medicaid.

Older children are less likely to have Medicaid coverage. Percentages of all children covered by Medicaid in 1995, by age group, were: 29.6 percent of children under six, 22.6 percent of children between six and 11, and 17.2 percent of children 12 to 17. Significantly more African American and Hispanic children than White children were covered by Medicaid in 1995: 45.4 percent of all African American children, 37.4 percent of all Hispanic children, and 18.3 percent of all White children.

In 1995, 3.1 million (or 21.4 percent) poor children were without health insurance. Poor children comprised one-third (32 percent) of all uninsured children in 1995. Over a 28-month period between 1992 and 1994, 30.0 percent of all children under the age of 18 lacked health insurance for at least one month (20.4 million). About 4 percent, or 2.8 million children, were uninsured for the entire 28-month period.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

As founder and Co-Chair of the Children's Congressional Caucus, I am a staunch advocate for the health and well being of children.

Health care issues have been getting a lot of press as far as Medicare and Medicaid are concerned and also in terms of a prescription medication benefit for our seniors. We also hear a lot about HMOs and insurance coverage. And that is as it should be. Health care is among the most basic of needs concerning the American family. Whether one is unemployed and uninsured or employed and underinsured health care is an issue a family might face daily.

The Administration's budget would block grant Medicaid and jeopardize the health care services that are now available for millions of low income children. Moreover, the Republican House budget proposal would create more harm by forcing cutbacks in mandatory spending programs. Those cuts could mean a \$93 billion reduction in Medicaid funding over the next ten years. Those cuts are likely to greatly increase the number of uninsured children.

Insurance and health care are certainly issues that concern children and we, as a body must do our utmost to address those issues. It is important to remember that health care involves not only physical health but also mental health and mental health care is just as important for children as it is for adults.

In fiscal year 2001, I urged funding for children's mental health services through the appropriation of a Mental Health Block Grant program in the amount of \$420 million. In addition, I helped bring over \$300 million to the health care industry in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and know these funds are an essential investment in the future of children.

It is important for their well-being and for their development. So we must support mental health programs for America's youth. That is the reason that at the beginning of this Congress I cosponsored H.R. 81, the Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 2003.

Give a Kid a Chance is a bipartisan bill, cosponsored by Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, my fellow co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus.

American youth are struggling to come to grips with a confluence of disturbing issues. On a daily basis, they face the dangers of drugs, smoking, violence and the fear of terrorism. Added to the more traditional problems

that plague adolescents—pressure from school, family, and peers—it seems this barrage may be taking its toll on the mental health of our children. Those children living in the wake of the attacks of 9/11, or those living in broken homes, may be particularly vulnerable. However, no child is immune.

A recent survey revealed that 13.7 million children nationwide suffer from mental health problems. At least one in five children and adolescents has a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral problem. That is 20 percent. However, 75 to 80 percent of these children do not receive any services in the form of specialized treatment or other mental health intervention.

Unchecked mental illness in the young can lead to academic failure, substance abuse, violence, or suicide. In fact, adolescent depression is increasing at an alarming rate. Recent surveys indicate that as many as one in five teens suffers from clinical depression. Each year, almost 5,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 take their own lives. The rate of suicide for this age group has nearly tripled since 1960. Obviously, the youth mental health programs we have in place are either ineffective or insufficient.

Responsibility for mental healthcare is shared across multiple settings: schools, primary care, the juvenile justice system, and child welfare. The bill I co-sponsored would establish school and community-based grant programs that would help prevent, identify, and treat mental health problems in children and adolescents. Local educational agencies that receive the grants would be required to maintain a certain ratio of students per counselor, nurse, psychologist, and social worker. Grants will be funded with a matching requirement of \$2 from private or local public entities, for each \$3 of federal funds.

For too long we have ignored the mental health needs of young Americans. There is a clear cry for attention to the mental health of our children. We must answer that cry. I hope others will support this bill, in a bipartisan way, and help our children through their formative adolescent years and help make them into healthy, well-adjusted adults.

ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES

On June 24, 2002 I joined the U.S. Department of Justice in announcing a \$100,000 grant to the Houston Council on Alcohol and Drugs, the fiscal agent to the Coalition of Behavioral Health Services. The Coalition will play a critical role in the prevention of substance abuse in youth in the 18th Congressional District of Texas by strengthening community anti-drug activities and reducing abuse among youth.

The 2002 project was a continuation and refinement of The Houston Council on Alcohol and Drugs' past goals: to reduce substance abuse among youth by 10 percent over the next 12 months, and encourage participation and collaboration of all sectors of the community including federal, state, and local government in an effort to increase resources for substance abuse prevention and reduction among youth.

The Houston Council on Alcohol and Drugs has distinguished itself as a leader in the fight to save our young people from the perils of drug abuse. I applaud and will continue to support these model programs that effectively motivate our youth to avoid drugs and equip them with the skills necessary to have a healthy and productive life.

We continue to wrestle with the devastation that drug abuse creates in our communities. It is particularly important that we support programs that will aid our youth in finding alternatives to drug use. Grants will help our children stand up against drugs. It clearly benefits the whole of our society when we help those most vulnerable before they enter into a life of substance abuse and crime.

THE COSTS OF IMMIGRATION, ILLEGAL AND LEGAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk tonight about another aspect of the immigration issue that I so often come to the floor to discuss, and what I have decided to do is over the course of the next several weeks is to break this issue down into several of its component parts. Because it really is a fascinating issue, immigration and immigration control, the impact of massive immigration into this country, uncontrolled immigration, the impact of having porous borders.

It really does matter. It is not just something that we can observe and think about as being really not involved with and not important to our Nation's future. It will affect every single aspect of our lives. It will affect us socially and economically and politically. It really does have enormous implications, the whole idea of massive immigration into the United States, both legal and illegal.

So as I say, tonight I want to go into one specific aspect of this and focus on it for a while, and that is the costs of illegal immigration and even to a large extent massive legal immigration to our social service systems in this country, to our States and to the Federal Government. Especially we are going to focus again a little more narrowly in that area on health care.

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Mr. Speaker, there is probably no issue that is brought to our attention here more often and with more concern on the part of our constituents than the issue of health care, its unaffordability, its inaccessibility, and the fact is that it is a very, very serious problem. The costs are rising so dramatically, such as in order to pay for new technologies.

There are a lot of reasons for the costs to increase. One reason is because, of course, our health care system is being accessed by a lot of people who are here illegally, they are not citizens of the United States, but also because in fact legal immigrants to the United States access social services to a higher extent than native citizens. So the impact of massive immigration, both legal and illegal, on the system is enormous.

This map is a condensed picture of our problem with regard to the health

care costs that are being incurred by States, by taxpayers in the various States, and by, of course, all taxpayers in the Nation as Federal taxpayers. I say "condensed," because this particular map only takes a look at the uncompensated medical costs along our border, in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

This is an annual expenditure. It says these costs represent only hospital costs. By the way, it is condensed again into just hospital costs in those four States. This is the emergency medical services costs. This, again, is condensed. It is not for all immigrants; it is just for illegal immigration.

These costs that we are going to talk about here are not the Nation's costs, just for four States. They are not all medical costs, just hospitals. They are not the costs of all immigration, just the cost of illegal immigration.

One in four dollars of uncompensated emergency medical costs for Southwest and border hospitals can be attributed to "undocumented immigrants." That is a way of saying illegal immigration. In California, \$295 million; in Arizona, \$97 million; in New Mexico, \$45 million; in Texas, \$393 million in the Year 2000. Somebody does pay for this. Of course, it is primarily the taxpayers of those States that have to pick up the tab.

But think about the real costs. Let us go ahead and just extrapolate out what the real costs to the Nation are in all States, because, I guarantee you, my State of Colorado has an enormous cost for both legal and illegal immigrants accessing the welfare system and specifically, again, the health care system. These costs are absorbed by hospitals, by the doctors and, eventually, of course, are paid for by the taxpayer.

One extensive study of the cost of illegal immigration is the one we are pointing to here. It determined that care provided to illegal aliens costs border hospitals \$189.6 million in uncompensated medical emergency costs in the year 2000. Total reported uncompensated costs at these same hospitals was \$831 million.

In other words, uncompensated costs to illegal aliens, this is all costs, emergency care to illegal aliens comprised 23 percent of the total uncompensated costs incurred by those hospitals in the year 2000.

This, as I say, is just the tip of the iceberg. It does not, as I mentioned, include non-emergency services provided by doctors or hospitals. Furthermore, the study only covers the counties that are along the border, the counties directly along that border. Total costs throughout the United States for all counties are unknown. However, if the numbers for these southern border counties are a sample for the whole Nation, the true costs of medical care is in really the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Part of the problem is, of course, self-induced. That is to say, the Federal Government has passed legislation that